

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAR - BENCH - MEDIA CONFERENCE

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Wednesday, April 5, 1995 at 1:00 p.m. in the Supreme Court Conference Room in the Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington. The meeting was open to the public. Notice of the meeting had been posted. The members of the Conference in attendance were:

Members from the Print News Media

Mr. John Sweeney

Members from the Electronic News Media

Mr. Allen Loudell
Mr. William Osborne

Members from the Bench

Judge Jay Paul James

Members from the Bar

Howard M. Handelman, Esquire
Rosemary K. Killian, Esquire
Harvey B. Rubenstein, Esquire

Harvey Rubenstein called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Honorable M. Jane Brady, Attorney General of Delaware, Gretchen Bender, Esquire, Vice President of Common Cause, and Rina

Marks, Executive Director of the Delaware State Bar Association attended the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, three handouts were distributed. They were: (1) a report of the Education Committee by Tammy Brittingham, (2) a memorandum from Tammy Brittingham concerning a media access problem to a felony hearing in Family Court in Dover, and (3) a memorandum from Steve Taylor listing after hours Court contacts for the media. Copies of these documents are attached to these minutes.

The first agenda item discussed was the Attorney General's proposal to hold a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) seminar. The Attorney General stated that most violations of FOIA are unintentional and the result of lack of knowledge of FOIA requirements. Gretchen Bender agreed with the Attorney General that most violations were unintentional and made by volunteers unfamiliar with FOIA. Gretchen also stated that school boards and town councils had problems complying with FOIA requirements. Many times board members look to lawyer members of a board for advice on FOIA, and the lawyers are not always right. She thought it was also important for the public to know the Attorney General Office's duties under FOIA.

The Attorney General initially suggested in discussions with the News-

Journal that a program be held that would explain what is and is not required by FOIA. She was referred to the Bar-Bench-Media Conference as an organization that might be interested in participating in a FOIA program. Her proposal was to hold a statewide conference in Dover to be attended by as many interested parties as possible. The Attorney General's Office would provide staff to help plan and help run the program as well as provide staff to give instruction. It was hoped that the media organizations or foundations could underwrite the cost of the program and that MCLE credit could be obtained for the program. She said that everyone that she has talked with has been supportive of the concept of a seminar.

The Conference endorsed the Attorney General's proposal and a committee was formed to pursue the concept. Bill Osborne was named the Chair of the Committee. The other members are John Taylor, Gretchen Bender, the Attorney General will designate a representative from her office, the Delaware State Bar Association will designate a member, a school board representative will be sought, and the Attorney General will get two downstate representatives. At the next meeting of the Conference, the committee will make a substantive report on the proposed program.

The next agenda item was the report of the Education Committee. After a brief discussion of Tammy's written report, it was decided that the Education

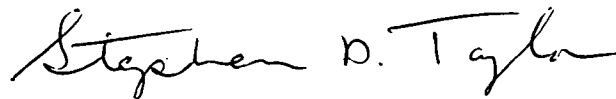
Committee should choose one topic and prototype the kind of small seminar that the committee was advocating. This prototype will be presented to the Conference at the next meeting.

It was noted that Harvey's term as Chair of the Conference will expire at the June meeting. Tammy will succeed Harvey as the Chair. A new Vice Chair will have to be selected at the next meeting. It is the judiciary's turn to hold the office of Vice Chair. Enclosed is a list of the members of the Conference with their current terms.

Attached to these minutes for your information is an April 12, 1995 memorandum from Ronald J. Torgerson, Executive Director of the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS), concerning DELJIS policy on public access to executed warrants.

The next meeting of the Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 1995 at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Family Court in Dover. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen D. Taylor".

Date: May 9, 1995

MEMORANDUM

To: Bar-Bench-Media Conference
From: Steve Taylor
Date: May 10, 1995
Re: Media Contacts Updated

The following people have been designated as media contacts, for their respective courts, to be available for after hours inquiries by the media in late breaking stories.

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>
Supreme Court		
Steve Taylor	656-4673	577-3706
Gayle Lafferty	610-388-1674	577-2794
Court of Chancery		
Richard Kiger	652-2652	577-2819
Ramona Monsen	655-2860	577-2440
Superior Court		
Tom Ralston	239-4439	577-2400 Ext. 252
Felicia Cannon	764-4753	577-2400 Ext. 252
Family Court		
Ed Pollard	328-2722	577-2222
Michael Arrington	652-7964	577-2964

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>
Court of Common Pleas		
Carole Kirshner	610-296-0419	577-2804
Fred Kirsch	658-3007	577-2430
Justice of the Peace Courts		
Tom Nagle	455-9135	323-4530
New Castle County		
Deputy Chief Magistrate		
Ronald Cheeseman	378-2521	429-7741
Kent County		
Deputy Chief Magistrate		
Charles Stump	697-6649	739-4555
Sussex County		
Deputy Chief Magistrate		
Sheila Blakely	422-2998	856-5250

The Delaware State Bar Association Standing Committee Chair for responses to public comment is Arthur G. Connolly, Jr. who can be contacted at 888-6212.

SDT/dlc



STATE OF DELAWARE
DELAWARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM (DELJIS)
801 SILVER LAKE BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 370
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

RONALD J. TORGERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE (302) 739 - 4856

Memorandum

To: Mr. Stephen D. Taylor
Court Administrator, Delaware Supreme Court

From: Ronald J. Torgerson
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Torgerson", enclosed in a circular flourish.

Date: April 12, 1995

Subject: DELJIS Policy on Public Access to Executed Warrants

As a result of the Wilmington New Journal requesting access to executed arrest warrants which are part of the State's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) we have instituted a program whereby a listing of all executed warrants in the past twenty-four hour period is produced from CJIS. This listing is by individual county and is being made available for public scrutiny at each twenty-four hour Magistrate Court in each county. Specifically, these courts are as follows: J.P. 3 in Georgetown, J.P. 7 in Dover, and J.P. 11 in New Castle.

The listing contains the name, age, sex, race, and charge(s) for which the individual was presented to the Magistrate. As the public has, by Magistrate Court policy, always had access to executed warrants (with the exception of sealed warrants) the CJIS listing will provide the Court address where a copy of the warrant itself may be located.

Beyond notifying you of this new service we would like to suggest that you inform the Bench Bar Media of the availability of this report. If there are any questions you may have please give me a call.

BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE OF DELAWARE

NAME:

TELEPHONE:

TERM EXPIRES:

MEMBERS FROM THE PRINT NEWS MEDIA:

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MICHAEL SIGMAN NEWS DIRECTOR TCI OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY 4008 N. DUPONT HIGHWAY NEW CASTLE, DE 19720	575-1200 575-1828 (FAX)	6/1/94
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MARILYN BUERKLE NEWS DIRECTOR WBOC TV P.O. BOX 2057 SALISBURY, MD 21802	410-749-1111 410-742-5190 (FAX)	6/1/95
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MEMBERS FROM THE BENCH:

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PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY SUPERIOR COURT KENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE DOVER, DE 19901	739-5331 739-6720 (FAX)	6/1/97
JUDGE JAY PAUL JAMES FAMILY COURT 900 KING STREET P.O. BOX 2359 WILMINGTON, DE 19899	577-2226 577-6022 (FAX)	6/1/95
M.PATRICIA WALTHER GRIFFIN CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT 22 THE CIRCLE, SUITE 120 GEORGETOWN, DE 19947	856-5871 856-5919 (FAX)	6/1/97
JUDGE RODERICK R. MCKELVIE U.S. DISTRICT COURT 844 KING STREET LOCK BOX 10 WILMINGTON, DE 19801	573-6001 573-6043	6/1/96

MEMBERS FROM THE BAR:

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STAFF:

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